

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES 2011

Commodification Of Human Beings

Buying people

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Preface

The purpose of this report is to increase awareness of the atrocities of the commodification of human beings and the impact it has on its victims and populations

around the world. In this report, the commodification of human beings is defined as the act of assigning an economic value to an individual to the extent that they are transformed into market commodities that can be bought and sold for profit.

The most prominent example of the commodification of human beings around the world is human trafficking. Human trafficking is a global criminal business that is present on every continent (Bales et al. 36) (See appendix I). This illicit trade limits the freedom of more than 4 million people around the world yearly (Gerdes 35). Of those 4 million trafficked victims, 80 percent are known to be women and 50 percent are estimated to be children (Cullen-DuPont 10). This form of illegal trafficking places third after the trafficking of drugs and weapons generating approximately US\$7 billion annually (Gerdes 35).

The issue presented in this paper will be documented thoroughly by examining different subtopics on the matter like human trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation, as well as for organ removal purposes.

For the reader to truly appreciate this report, the reader needs to understand the issue. For that reason, its background will be included to provide the base knowledge needed. Following that, the role of control and the way religious and spiritual views influence the social issue will be discussed in two different sections.

A section will be dedicated to an expert and international activist, Kevin Bales, who has been fighting against Slavery as well as human trafficking for many ways.

Three detailed case studies located in Thailand, India and Kuwait will subsequently be analyzed methodically. Furthermore, since international organizations play an important role in the fight against human trafficking, Polaris Project, Free the Slaves,

STOP THE TRAFFIK, Organs Watch and Anti- Slavery International will appear in this report accompanied with a brief description.

Lastly, the issue will “brought home” in a manner that shows the extent of this problem and makes it easier for the reader to feel how urgent it is to act against this criminal business that involves trading human lives.

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Summary



The necessary information needed for the purpose of this report was found on many post secondary data bases and within previous university projects, national governmental reports and international newspapers. Sources such as net books about slavery, human trafficking, prostitution as well as various other books by experts on the issue were used.

Given that human trafficking is a low profile industry, statistics vary depending on the sources. For this reason, the numbers found in this report were averaged.

BACKGROUND

The old slavery

**For the purpose of this section, the words slavery will be used when talking about human trafficking and slave when referring to the victims since those terms were commonly used. It is also important to take into consideration that the old slave trade slightly differs from the modern slave trade even if they are used to accomplish the same purpose. (See appendix II).*

Contrary to what some may think, human trafficking – the modern term for slave trade – is far from being an emerging issue. It has been occurring and evolving for centuries and is known by most under another term, slavery. Slaves been viewed as commodities for many centuries. The Code of Hammurabi, written around 1790 BC, stated that “a slave is not a real human being” (Bales et al. 16) and this perception of the victims was maintained by most until the late 1800’s.

Egyptians, Romans and Babylonians, all three were powerful empires in the years preceding Christ, used slave labour for big scale projects that would otherwise expose their people to danger. While the slaves were risking their lives and did not receive a salary, their citizens kept working safely in their businesses. Due to that fact, slavery became the most profitable trade in the above mentioned economies. It assisted the empires in the growth of their power because the slaves were working for free. If a slave

happened to die, they would simply be replaced by another exploited individual (Bales et al. 4).

Once the slaves were owned, they controlled them in every way possible and mistakes were not tolerated. The consequences reserved for the “non-humans” were always inequitable. The Babylonian Code states that if a physician was to make a fatal mistake on a patient; his hands were to be cut of – unless the patient was a slave, in which case the physician only had to replace the owner’s property (Bales et al. 3).

Records show that many slave revolts occurred in those days, but none of them ever significant enough to either abolish slavery completely or change the atrocious behaviours against the slaves. The Roman Empire was one of the few exceptions. After their defeat against the slaves in the revolt often referred to as the Gladiator War, the powerful empire reformed their laws in a way that made the population treat the slaves in a more civilized way (Bales et al. 3).

In ancient India the slaves were treated far better than in the big empires. This is largely because Buddha had ordered his followers to only allow their slaves to do the amount of work they could bear and take care of getting what they needed when they felt ill (Lal 1). It is important to state the fact that although Hinduism was the main religion in ancient India, Buddhism had also many followers in the northern part of the territory. For that reason it was said that when foreigners came to visit northern India, they didn’t notice the slavery around them due to the fact that it was a much more humane slavery than they were used to (Lal 1).

By the early 17th century, the Indians had started to trade native products like cotton, silk, sugar, indigo dye and opium with the British Empire through their company called

the East India Company (Marshall). The British's appearance in the Indian culture because of the trade of goods influenced the slave owners to alter the way they treated their slaves. After the English's presence in India, slaves were treated cruelly/

There were two factors that led to the Trans- Atlantic slave trade that started approximately in the 15th century. One of them is the support of the Catholic Church because slavery references were found in many Biblical passages. The second is the expansion of the European Empires into Africa and later on North and South America. The expansion of the empire into the Americas was the biggest influence because more slaves were needed on plantation fields as the trade of goods became more important (Bales et al. 5).

This triangular trade was very beneficial for the Americas and Europe but on the other hand it put most Africans at disadvantage. The commodification of the African slaves was advantageous to the Africans of higher power only because they arranged transactions with white people to sell their natives. Those transactions led the transatlantic slave trade to transport more than 13 million Africans out of their native lands between the 1500's and 1800's (Cullen- DuPont 6).

Great-Britain decided to end the transatlantic slave trade in 1807 and to make it illegal within the empire, but unfortunately, it did not stop the trading entirely. Although Britain had officially declared slavery a crime inside the country, the trade kept going illicitly until the Civil War ended in the United- States in 1865 (Cullen- DuPont 7). The conclusion of the civil war brought the declaration that made slavery a crime in the United-States (Triangular).

Only in 1948 did the United Nations all agree on the fact that slavery was a crime against humanity and wrote the first international human right. Article 4 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* states that “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms” (Universal). In spite that UN’s act was a good initiative, prohibiting something does not make it disappear; it only makes it unapparent to the public’s eyes.

The New Slavery

Old-slavery took different forms to create what some know today as human trafficking – or modern slavery. In regards to old-slavery, the slaveholder exercises complete or nearly complete control over the people he/she has enslaved, and the enslaved individuals live and work as ordered by the slaveholder (Cullen-DuPont 7). The purposes of slavery today differ slightly from the previous reasons behind the old-slavery, since societies have evolved and have new needs. Human trafficking nowadays most commonly leads the victims into the sex trade, where victims are subject to three types of slavery: chattel, debt bondage and contract (Bales et al. 33).

The first, chattel slavery, is the closest one to the old slavery that can be found in modern societies. Chattel slavery is when a person is put under permanent servitude, whether they have been captured, born or bought (Bales et al. 33).

The second, debt bondage is when a victim borrows money from the trafficker and to repay the loan guarantees to give her/his service until the debt is repaid. The catch is that the length of the service is undetermined so the victim can keep working forever and never pay off his/her debt (Bales et al. 33). Another scenario that leads to a victim being under debt bondage is when the trafficker offers food and shelter to the victim after

he/she is bought. Although this gesture may seem of good intentions, traffickers never offer something without a fee. In order to be released, the unfortunate individuals need to pay their debt to their owner (Bales 41).

The third, contract slavery is when a person signs a contract for employment, but once they arrive to factory or business, are enslaved, threatened by violence, and paid nothing or almost nothing. If legal issue with the government arise, the employer can simply pull out the contract that the slave signed which states that he/she is a legitimate employee (Bales et al. 34).

Expert

Kevin Bales is one of the biggest contributors to the fight against slavery and human trafficking. The man who recently won the 2011 University of Louisville Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order for his plan to eliminate modern slavery did not always use to be aware that the issue existed (Plan). Like most individuals today, he thought that slavery had been eradicated in 1948. The way he found out he was wrong shows the power that non-governmental organization raising- awareness have (Bales 7).

It was at a public event located in England in the early 1980's that Bales learned something that would change his life. He came across a stand set up by the oldest IGO fighting against slavery, Anti-Slavery International, and picked up a brochure from the table. He could not believe what he was reading. The most basic human right was still not being guaranteed to millions of people around the world. From the moment he picked up the brochure, he knew he had to do something about slavery (Bales 7).

He spent the following years researching information about modern slavery. In 1990, he became co-founder of the firm Pell & Bales Ltd. whose purpose is to deliver

social changes by raising money for charities all through telemarketing (Welcome). Since its creation, the firm helped to raise more than \$1 Billion for medical charities, human rights groups, environmental campaigns, overseas development, and the Labour Party (Kevin).

In 1999, having gathered enough information, Bales published a book called Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy. He had hoped the book would inform the population about the issue and possibly give them the will to act against this issue that keeps 27 million peoples from being free (Bales et al. VII). His success exceeded what he had hoped for when a film based on his book came out and won two Emmys and a Peabody award. The film's success was not enough though. The book was translated in more than 10 languages and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize around the same time (Who We Are). This book is what propelled him to the top of the slavery and human trafficking activist list (Bales IX).

Following the publication of his book, another accomplishment was added to his list of achievements. He founded Anti-Slavery International's sister organization, Free the Slaves. Operating since 2001 in the United-States, the organization has helped freeing thousands of slaves in countries such as India, Nepal, Haiti, Ghana, Brazil, Ivory Coast and Bangladesh (Plan). The organization's goal is to eradicate slavery completely (Free).

He is currently a member of the international cocoa initiative board of directors and is working to remove child and slave labour from the chocolate industry. He is also the consultant for the U.N.'s Global Program on Trafficking of Human Beings' where he creates policies on slavery and human trafficking for the West African States (Plan). Bales' list of collaborators and accomplishment is very impressive even though he has

only been known for a dozen years. The Association of British Universities even named his general work one of the top “100 world-changing discoveries” for his contribution to the fight against slavery and human trafficking (Plan).

The Role of Control

As previously mentioned in this report, debt bondage is a type of slavery where the victims are promised money in exchange for their services, but usually find themselves deceived and used as commodities instead. Traffickers target vulnerable or innocent individuals who they know will become dependent on them whether it is to get money because of their financial situation or to stay alive. In all cases of human trafficking and slavery victims are manipulated by their traffickers because sometimes controlling an individual’s mind works more efficiently than violence (Bales 137).

Traffickers are very powerful individuals that see their victims not as human beings, but as commodities that will bring in a lot of money once they are sold. In some cases, in addition to being very lucrative merchandise, the traffickers can benefit from the victims physically by raping them prior to delivering them to the pimps where they will be sexually exploited. This type of abuse is used by most sex traffickers as a method of control. Newly trafficked victims sold to pimps are generally unwilling to engage in sexual intercourse. Due to this fact, the traffickers feel the need to break their resistance in a way that will prevent the victims from completely resisting when serving their first customer (How do Traffickers).

This first act of violence is often critical to establish control over the sexually exploited victims as it is a traumatizing experience that results in the captives

surrendering to the traffickers. From the occurrence of this event, the victims' dignity is crushed and to protect themselves from future abusive actions they escape to the only safe place they can find in the brothels; their mind (Bales 61). Mental illnesses are known to be a brain's mechanism to protect the body from traumatizing situations and according to psychiatrist Arieh Shalev, this is normal as "being exposed to brutality up close may increase people's risk of being adversely affected psychologically" ([Arehart-Treichel](#), n.d). The power of this control is so great that in some cases it pushes the victims to return to their owners after being freed (Bales 61).

It is very difficult for slaves to escape their owners because as soon as they are bought their passports and identification papers (if any) are confiscated (How do Traffickers). For victims that were trafficked to another country, those papers are needed to go back to the country they originate from. In other situations, victims are trafficked across borders without identification documents. This is done with the occasional help of the corrupted immigration official (Cullen- DuPont 28). The purpose is the same for both situations: without documents, the victims cannot escape and therefore are obligated to stay with their owners.

Although the traffickers are very powerful individuals, government workers are the most influential when it comes to the commodification of human beings. They are the group of individuals that have created laws against the commodification of human beings, whether they prohibit human trafficking, prostitution, slavery and even the sale of organs and are expected to enforce them. Sadly, in some countries where corruption

exists, government workers are not enforcing the laws mentioned above. Instead, they benefit from the crimes, whether it is by receiving sexual services or money in exchange for letting the traffickers do their jobs. The group of people that have the power to put the atrocities to an end are the individuals that help keep alive.

The other group equally as powerful consists of the consumers. They are the people that are controlling and feeding the industry, making the commodification of human beings a fast growing international business. If it was not for the consumer's demand, the industry would not exist (Bales 40). But if they have the power to make the industry grow they also have the power to make human trafficking come to an end.

Spiritual and Religious Influences

Religions are very powerful tools that have been used to justify people's inappropriate actions and behaviours for thousands of year. For example they have provided justification for the unfair treatment and oppression of women because many religious texts depict women as inferior. In other cases, religion also justifies intolerable behaviours that encourage the commodification of human beings.

Up until the 19th century, slavery was seen as a natural part of life by most Christians (Christianity). The Curse of Ham, found in the Old Testament, justified for centuries the existence of slavery along with racism although by today's standards it would be highly immoral to find such explanation in the Bible. The passage dedicated to the Curse of Ham is found in the book Genesis and it explains why Noah put a curse on his grandson in order to punish his son. Canaan, the grandson, as well as all entire lineage were cursed to become slaves (Using). The exact excerpt says "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of

slaves will be to his brothers.” He also said, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem. May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem and may Canaan be his slave”(Genesis 9:25-27).

It was after the publication of the New Testament that passages of the bible justifying slavery had disappeared. Today, most Christians know it is morally wrong to enslave someone although there are still Reconstructionist Christians that believe in enslavement (Christianity).

The Quran, Muslim’s sacred text, disapproves of enslavement. Although Muslims have practiced slavery in the past, never was it more atrocious than other religions. Muslim slave owners (unlike the Europeans) had to take care of their slaves as if they were family. In addition to being treated kindly there were restrictions as to who could be enslaved. Only children of slaves or non-Muslim prisoners of war could become slaves, never a freeborn Muslim (Wisdom). A passage in the Quran, Sura 90, states that the righteous path involves "the freeing of slaves" which is what Muslims were working towards by putting restrictions on enslavement (Faith).

On the other hand, justification for slavery can be found in the Buddhist faith. According to Buddha, one needs to accept pain and learn to coexist with it in order to attain enlightenment. The leader’s teachings also say that if a person commits intentional actions - whether good or bad- they will live the repercussions of those actions in their following life (Basic). Therefore, Buddhists feel no pity for slaves as they believe that their suffering is a result of their own making in a previous life (Bales 39).

Another immoral action that Buddha supports and provides justification for is prostitution. In the Vihaya, the set of rules for monks, Buddha describes the types of women there are in the world. Three out of the ten types that exists are, according to Buddha; “those bought for money, those living together voluntarily, and those to be enjoyed or used occasionally” (Bales38). Although women are inferior to men and can’t attain enlightenment, it is said that a prostitute has better chances to attain enlightenment in a future life because Buddha does not look down on her (Buddhist).

The Hindu caste system is also very closely tied to slavery, although it was outlawed in 1949 by the Indian government. Prior to its prohibition, the caste system acted as a segregation system in communities, which is the reason why it was abolished by law. People were divided in four jats, the Indian word for caste, depending on their profession and were not allowed to marry or interact in any way with another caste (See Appendix III). A fifth caste existed although it was not recognized as an official jat. They called them the “untouchables.” In the past the “untouchables” practiced the polluting jobs and were avoided by the higher castes (Negative).

In modern India, the effects of the caste system can still be found, especially in small villages. Entire families in the lower caste are kept under debt bondage slavery because according to the tradition, they are meant for the dirty work.

CASE STUDIES

Case study N°1: Thailand

Thailand is a newly industrialized country that used to primarily rely on the exportation of rice, tin, rubber and teak as the base of its economy. In 1961, the

government took action against its financial vulnerability and came up with a development plan to boost its economy while still increasing the profits earned from the agricultural sector. The government's goal to improve the economy was slowly being achieved until the sixth development plan came into action in 1987 (Economic). This five year plan was to become the beginning of Thailand's major economical boost that would last for more than a decade. The overall outcome of these prosperous years was a noticeable rise in the standard of living. The new lifestyle that came with inflation made the prices of food and basic articles increase. It was easier for the southern regions to adapt to the new prices since their yearly incomes had followed the trend. But for the northern region, it was a completely different story (Bales 40).

Looking again at the purpose of Thailand's first development plan, which was to increase the profits earned by the agricultural sector, it has to be realized that the northern people of Thailand will never be able to achieve much more than they already did with the land they own (Economy). Only 10% of the mountainous grounds are fertile enough to enable a portion of the population living in this region to practice agriculture. Throughout the industrialization period, two thirds of the northern families in Thailand had enough to survive. Unfortunately they were tempted by the new technology and the need to be like the other families. To nourish those needs, they did something that should have been avoided: they sold their daughters to sex traffickers (Bales 40).

Although it was their will to taste the new goods that made the parents sell their daughters, a Thai cultural belief provides further justification for these acts. When children are born, especially girls, it is never without a price. It is at the moment of their birth that their debt to their parents begins and starts accumulating. The parents believe

that their children owe them since they have provided them a home and have fed them all their lives. Parents rarely care about their children in the Northern region of Thailand because they see them as investments and not as human beings. The commodification of their children provides a justification for them to sell their daughters to sex traffickers (Bales 39).

Either the parents do not care or do not know how badly the girls are treated in the Brothels. The first event to happen when trafficked young girls or women are brought into brothels often includes the administration of drugs to avoid refusal of intercourse once she has her first client. Refusal often leads to rape or physical abuse by the client or the pimp. From that point, the victims understand that to minimize the pain they must do everything they are told by their traffickers, and escaping is not an option (Bales 58).

The large amount of injured Americans soldiers that stayed Thailand during the Vietnam War are guilty of encouraging prostitution and contributed to the sectors grow (Bales 75). Thai men are the largest group looking for sexual entertainment, as it is a symbol of economic power. Also Buddhism, the main religion in the country, does not oppose to it and provides justifications for their behaviours (Bales 38).

As a repercussion of the economic boost more men in Thailand can afford to pay prostitutes regularly (Bales 44). Their wives do not consider their adventures with prostitutes as lack of fidelity, because they understand that men want multiple life partners and that sleeping with different women every night (as opposed to their husbands having mistresses) protects their families' stability (Bales 46). Although this option might seem preferable to the wives, their chances of contracting HIV are extremely high. It is

believed that in some areas, 20% of married women whose partners have been visiting prostitutes will contract HIV (Bales 60).

It is common knowledge in Thailand that there are risks of contracting AIDS while having intercourse with a prostitute. It is ranked 38th in the world for highest amount of infections (World). As some sort of protection against the infection, clients are looking for virgin girls and are ready to offer more money for younger girls. The constant need for virgin girls contributes to the growth of the industry in Thailand (Bales 56).

Another explanation for the increasing demand in the trafficking industry in Thailand is the ongoing replacement of the girls because of illnesses. This is happening due to the fact that most of the girls trafficked and used for prostitution are replaced after 2 to 5 years to get rid of the sick or dying ones and to always have “fresh” girls to serve the clients (Bales 58). Since the victims have to serve between 10 to 15 men a night and that the use of condoms is not always required by the brothels, most of the girls contract HIV infection (Bales 60).

If the infection is not contracted directly from the client, it is through an infected needle. To prevent the girls from being impregnated by one of the customers they are occasionally injected their monthly doses of Depo-Provera. This medication is used as a contraceptive by the slave owners. They frequently utilize the same needle on all the girls in a way that passes the infection around the brothel, infecting all the sex slaves (Bales 59). In addition to having to worry about pregnancy and contracting the human immunodeficiency virus, the girls have to think about the legal consequences they may face because of their presence in the brothel.

Although prostitution has been illegal in Thailand since 1960, the law always contained gray areas where room was left for the consumers to keep using this service as it is considered to be part of the “entertainment” sector. The Prostitution Suppression Act of 1960 would look at the person who was in fact the victim as the criminal, and the consumer, the one who should have been fined, as the victim. Frequently, the sex slaves were charged. Until 1996 the law was flexible on the subject (Bales 74). Then came the closest thing to what consumers of illegal prostitution know as discipline: The Prostitution Prevention and Suppression Act. Section 8 of the revised law against prostitution states that

Whoever, for sexual gratification of that person or of another person, commits sexual intercourse or any other act against a person over fifteen years but not over eighteen years of age, with or without his or her consent, in a prostitution establishment, shall be punished with imprisonment of one to three years and a fine of twenty thousand to sixty thousand baht. You need to cite this.

If the offence under the first paragraph is committed against a child not over fifteen years of age, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of two to six years and a fine of forty thousand to one hundred and twenty thousand baht.

(Prostitution Prevention and Suppression act)

This act also states that parents selling their children into prostitution will be punished with imprisonment of 4 to 20 years, and a fine between 80,000 and 400,000 baht (Prostitution).

These laws exist but unfortunately are not being enforced. It is often wondered how the government is not aware that such atrocities are happening within its borders. The answer is that they know, and as heartbreaking as it sounds, they are most of the time themselves involved in the trafficking. Corruption is one of the major causes that influence the growth of the trafficking industry and according to expert, Kevin Bales; it is not uncommon to find police officers and government officials using the prostitution services. He comments on the role of the police services in his book Disposable People: “The Thai police serve as slave-catchers whenever a girl escapes; once captured, girls are often beaten or abused in the police station before being sent back to the brothel.” (Bales 59). Occasionally, police officers will break-in a brothel and take some girls into custody, but this is usually done for show. The government knows that the story will be talked about in the media and it will reassure citizens to see that something is being done about this issue (Bales, 2004, p. 61).

Today, it is believed that 35,000 Thai girls placed in different brothels within the country are there with their parent’s consent (Cullen-DuPont 12). This number seems to be declining since there are more prevention programs and traffickers now go outside of the country’s boundaries to find what they are looking for but Thailand is still a source, transit and destination country. This means that trafficked victims are either taken from

Thailand to be trafficked elsewhere, internally trafficked, and are taken from other countries to be brought into Thailand. Most of the victims trafficked to Thailand are from surrounding countries like Burma, Cambodia, Laos, People's Republic of China, and Uzbekistan. Those unfortunate girls are commonly trafficked for sexual exploitation (Thailand). They get their right to make their personal decisions taken away and become prisoners of their own lives.

One thing that can be done by the government to fix this problem is to offer funding to the families living in the northern part of Thailand. On one hand, it would be very costly for the government to do that, but by charging higher taxes to its population, it would not be impossible to achieve. On the other hand, offering money to financially struggling families may lower the amount of cases where families sell their daughters to sex traffickers.

International governments should be involved as well. Given that corruption is also part of the issue, it cannot be resolved internally only. Outside help needs to pressure the Thai government into being a clean government. Restructuration of the system will have to be part of the solution plan because the government cannot keep corrupted police officers. Also, government workers will have to be retrained to avoid corruption. Essentially, the eradication of the problem in Thailand needs to come from cooperation between internal and external forces.

Case study N°2: India

India is considered the “warehouse for kidneys” or a “great organ bazaar” and has been since the discovery of immuno-suppressant drugs in the 70's (Indian). About 30

years ago, cyclosporine, a drug that controls the body's response to foreign organs, became available in India and popularized renal transplants (Indian). Since the emplacement of the liberalization policies in 1991, the nation's economy has been expanding. Yet, poverty is one of the biggest challenges it has to face because of the uneven distribution of wealth in the country. It is believed that over 25% of the working Indian population is living in poverty (Indian). Up until 1994, there were no laws in India that prohibited someone from trading organs for money. For that reason, selling a spare organ was seen as an option for Indians living in poverty. Kidneys especially since each human being owns two and one can easily be removed without harming the donor's life (India). Due to ethics and WHO's (World Health Organization) recommended principles, India passed the Transplantation of Human Organs Act. The act's main purposes are to:

1. To accept brain death as a definition of death (brain dead meaning that the person was considered dead when the brain's neuron activity stopped)
2. To stop commercial dealing of organs
3. To define the first relative (father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter and wife) who could donate organs without permission from the government (permission from the government meaning that the request has to be approved by a medical authorization committee if the donor is not closely related to the receiver)

(Organ)

With all the restrictions put in place by the Indian government, one would think that organ trafficking is not an issue in the nation anymore, but the reality remains that it is.

There is one loophole through which the sale of organs is believed to be happening; the medical authorization committee. The committee is involved in the “non- related donor” transplant decision process and investigates to make sure that transplants are not taking place with commercialized organs. Many people have said that the committee does not work to protect the poor from being lured into selling their organs, but to provide a cover for illegal transaction of kidney sales (Goyal et al.).

In the United States alone, there are currently 47,000 people on the waiting list for kidney transplants. This shortage of donations means that the amount of people applying for a transplant is increasing faster than the amount of donations being received (Kidney). Human trafficking for the removal of organs exists due to the lack of organ donations and the increasing demand in the developed nations. For example, between 1990 and 2003, kidney donations in the United-States increased only 33% while people awaiting a kidney for a transplant increased by 236% (Panjabi). This creates extensive waiting lists that can push a candidate to wait more than 10 years for a transplant (Aronowitz 110). People would argue that dialysis treatments are offered to the candidates, but those with money do not want this non-esthetical treatment. For that reason, candidates from richer countries travel to countries like India where they can pay a physician to perform the transplant illegally (Cullen-DuPont 23).

Without realizing it, the candidates are paying not only the surgeons for the illicit transplant, but the traffickers as well. Due to a bad economy, one person out of three living in India lives in poverty (India). Those fighting to sustain their families make themselves vulnerable to traffickers and are easy to manipulate. For that reason, the trafficker, or organ broker, can find a donor without having to kidnap them. They often

simply need to recruit a donor with the same blood type as the receiver (India). To the Indians struggling to survive it seems like a great opportunity to make money. Thinking they will be able to pay off their debts with the money they get for their kidney, Indians agree to sell their spare organ. The average price for a kidney in India varies around 800\$, which consists of almost a year's salary for a lower class Indian (Handwreck). But this way of getting money is not sustainable. Eventually the money they got for their kidney runs out and they cannot sell the other one without suffering from it. In the end, they are back to the situation they were in before, but with a missing kidney (Handwerk). According to Professor Leigh Turner from McGill University, the winners in the transaction are the traffickers and the surgeons as they can charge more than \$80,000 per transplant to the recipients. It is not uncommon for an organ broker to not pay the donor and simply anesthetize them by surprise. He or she will wake up with a missing kidney (Lakshmi). In that situation, the surgeon and broker benefit from 100% of the money collected.

Nancy Scheper-Hughes, founding director of Organs Watch, believes that approximately 15,000 kidneys are taken from victims of human trafficking every year (Kindeys Trafficked). Those forced donors, having lost one kidney, are more exposed to possible problems that can affect their remaining kidney (Handwrek). Many donors are refused the right to enter a hospital and see the surgeon that performed the surgery following the intervention. If they do get to see a professional, rarely do they have the money to buy the antibiotic prescribed and occasionally end up dying (Scheper-Hughes).

Human trafficking for organ removal purposes is becoming a global issue, even though most people are unaware that it exists. In 2006 the United Nations came to the

conclusion that we would never be able to know the extent of the issue due to the lack of empirical evidence (Aronowitz 110). It is for this reason that many experts like Nancy Scheper-Hughes are trying to make people aware of the issue and are gathering proofs of the ravages it has made around the world. Raising awareness it is the one of the easiest way to inform people of the myths and misconceptions about the issue.

Some experts believe that the best way to stop the donors' exploitation in India is to allow the practice of organ removal from living bodies and sale of organs although it is very unethical. That way the donors would have the right to see a doctor after the surgery if a problem occurs (Scheper- Hughes). Also, if the sale of organs became legal worldwide, countries like the United-States where organ shortage is an issue would find more donors. It is saddening to say, but when people are offered money, they always feel more generous.

On the other hand, other experts believe that the governments should make an effort to promote the brain dead body organ removal because it is more ethical. (Goyal et al. 5) Nancy Scheper- Hughes said in an interview with Andrew Lawless that "If we think that the laws are good, that it's not good for medicine or society to allow poor people to mutilate themselves, then the laws have to be observed and at the moment they're not, and the penalties have to be severe enough that people won't do it – if it's a crime, let's treat it like a crime" (Lawless).

For the government to start enforcing the laws in India, external pressure has to be put on the government. Countries part of the United- Nations should be pressuring the country in a way that would make them take the issue seriously and do something about

it. The Indian government needs to control the committee in charge of the organ transplants as well.

Education is also the key to stopping the poor population of India to sell their organs and to save them from being trafficked. Many of the people in India are not aware that selling their organs is illegal. Education is a way to make them conscious of the laws and make them realize that selling their organs is not the way for a sustainable lifestyle.

One way or another, something needs to be done with this issue because it is fast growing and Indians are getting even more vulnerable each day.

Case study N°3: Kuwait

Unlike most of the countries affected by human trafficking, Kuwait is a very wealthy state located in the United Arab Emirates. Due to the amount of oil contained on the land, the exportation of the oil makes up for most of the wealth. But before the discovery of this essential resource in the 1950's, Kuwait was a small and unimportant Emirate (History). As the state was becoming internationally recognized, many people from Western countries and Southeast Asia started immigrating to find employment. Today, immigrant workers, or expatriates, make up for 75% of the 2.5 million people living in the country (Fisanick 117).

Kuwait is a destination country for men but mostly it is women that are trafficked for labour exploitation which remains the main reason for trafficking in Kuwait. It generates about 250 million Kuwaiti Dinars, which is the equivalent of 860 million dollars a year (Kuwait). As opposed to the other countries studied in this report, Kuwaitis do not usually kidnap or buy the victims. The crime is committed after men and women

migrate from poorer countries such as Nepal, India, Sri Lanka and the Philippines to seek for employment (U.S TIP report 2009). Before leaving their home country, immigrants often go on the web and look to jobs openings. Most of the time, they will get employed in the domestic or sanitary business because the promised wage is a lot more than what they would make in their home countries. That is also where they will find an employer that is ready to provide them accommodations whether being in their home or in a labour camp. To their eyes, it is a dream job. They think they will be fed, lodged, paid and be able to send money to their families back in their home country. They are lured into migrating to an unknown country where they only know and trust one person: their future employer. It is important to understand that even though they migrate by their own free will, most of the migrating victims will be exploited once they have entered the country legally by employers or sponsors that had promised them work (Fisanick). Women are often the most vulnerable to be trafficked to then be exploited by doing forced labour (U.S TIP report 2009).

The ILO (International Labour Organization) has suggested six indicators of forced labour:

- Threats or actual physical harm to the worker.
- Restriction of movement and confinement, to the workplace or to the limited area.
- Debt bondage where the worker has to pay off a debt or loan and is not paid for his or her services. The employer may provide food and accommodation at such inflated prices that the worker cannot escape the debt.

- Withholding of wages or excessive wage reductions that violate previously made agreements.
- Retention of passports and identity documents so that the worker cannot leave, or prove his/her identity or status.
- Threats of denunciation to the authorities, where the worker is in an irregular immigration status.

(Bales et al. 35)

From the point where the victims get off their planes, they can usually be considered slaves (slave defined as person who out of economic necessity enters into work relationship that either limits their freedom of choice or their mobility) if one or more of these indicators can be recognized (Fisanick 118).

Victims that are promised jobs in factories or in the construction sector will be the unfortunate individuals to live in the labour camps which are poorly built and have to be shared with many other slaves. Others that are promised to work as nannies or housekeepers get to stay with their employers but these women are often the ones that get beaten or sexually assaulted by their male owners (Fisanick 118). There is also always the possibility that a victim will get promised a job in a certain field and once she arrives to destination, she is forced into prostitution or trafficked somewhere else (U.S TIP report 2009).

Although there are laws against forced labour, prostitution, slavery and kidnapping, there is no specific law in the criminal code that prohibits human trafficking in Kuwait. When the time comes to convict traffickers, those laws are collectively taken into account to create a sentence that fits the offences and that varies depending on the case (Kuwait).

Because there is no law against human trafficking, Kuwait was ranked a tier 3 country, being the worst rank, by the U.S TIP report in 2009.

One improvement that shows Kuwait's attempt and will to fight human trafficking is the opening of a shelter for the foreign victims. This center was opened in 2007 and during its first year sheltered almost 250 female workers vulnerable to sexual and physical abuse.

Something the government should also consider doing given the fact that Kuwait welcomes a large amount of foreign workers each year is opening a government run agency to help them find work. The agency workers would match the foreign worker with Kuwaiti employer whose criminal record had been checked prior the worker's arrival. Also, to prevent the innocent employers to commit the crime after the worker's arrival, the worker would be checked on after to make sure that they are treated fairly. By doing this, the government could easily be aware of cases of trafficking and slavery happening within their country.

International Organizations

For human trafficking to be abolished around the world, people have to be aware of the issue in order to act against it. Many experts and organizations dedicate all their time to fight for freedom because *people shouldn't be bought or sold* (Stop the traffik slogan).

Polaris Project

Polaris Project takes its name after the North Star that directed black slaves towards the freedom on their way out of the Underground Railroad in the 19th century. (Underground). Their efforts are concentrated mostly in the United-States and Japan but

since 2010, they have been expanding their international programs. They have educated more than 85 countries by providing training and lessons. In the near future, their Human Trafficking Hotline (currently only available in the United States) will be serving victims on an international scale.

Their main approach on the issue is to make communities aware of the situation that is happening everywhere around the world by putting pressure on governments to enforce or create laws against human trafficking (Polaris Project). In 2009, the Polaris Project proposed to the Japan Network Against Trafficking in Persons made up of a group of lawyers, shelters and various NGOs (Japan) to pressure the government to make the anti-trafficking law stricter (Polaris Project).

Slowly, The Polaris Project is improving the situation that human trafficking is in Japan. It also serves victims after they are rescued from their traffickers by offering long-term medical care, coordination of legal assistance, emotional support, and judicial support (Polaris Project).

Free the Slaves (FTS)

Free The Slaves is a non-profit organization that helps and encourages part of the population that doesn't want to stay inactive while slavery and human trafficking happens around them. The organization believes that slavery can end worldwide if everyone plays the role they have to play to eradicate it.

They work with governments to research ways to end slavery and human trafficking. FTS also criticizes and comments on the United-States' reports on trafficking in persons (TIP reports) annually to bring improvement strategies to the worldwide governments.

In addition to that, Free the Slaves achieves on-the-ground liberations of slaves worldwide. They also take care of reintegrating the victims back to their normal lives, and providing support afterwards. FTS and grassroots activists created many success stories by helping slaves around the globe to be free (Free the Slaves).

STOP THE TRAFFIK

STOP THE TRAFFIK is a global movement made up of individuals, communities and more than 1000 organizations that want to see slavery in the world come to an end. The movement was started in 2006 as a way to:

- *Educate* the population about the issue and raise awareness.
- *Advocate* the protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in person with the help of communities to make it more difficult to exploit and traffic people.
- *Fundraise* projects that will facilitate the end of trafficking.

The movement works alongside the UN.GIFT (United Nations Global Initiative To Fight human trafficking) in the project *Start Freedom* whose aim is to educate the younger generations and get them involved in the fight for a traffic-free world.

Organs Watch

Organs Watch is a small human rights NGO dedicated to the task of promoting human rights and fighting against the trafficking of body organs belonging to vulnerable populations. It was created in 1999 by Nancy Scheper-Hughes and 3 other professors from Berkeley and Columbia, both Universities in California. The professors investigated reports of possible cases of human rights abuses surrounding human trafficking for organ removal. It was the first organization of the kind created in the world and is located on the Berkeley campus (Mcbroom). Today, they have research teams located in more than

12 countries and are the only organization in the world having statistics on human trafficking for organ removal purposes (Lawless).

ANTI-SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL

Anti-Slavery International is the oldest international organization in the world to fight for human rights and works to eradicate all types of slavery on the globe (Anti-Slavery International).

The organization was created in 1839 and since then has been promoting human rights and making sure that victims are provided with non-conditional assistance. This means that the victims are being given the right to assistance and protection from the governments, and that this assistance is in no way conditional on the person providing testimony and/or cooperation in prosecution (Global).

In the past century, Anti-Slavery International was involved in many successful campaigns. One of them was the abolition of slavery in the Belgian Congo rubber plantations. Since 2000, they have also been contributing to the development and introduction of international conventions, anti-trafficking legislation in the UK and EU and development of the UK Action Plan on Trafficking (Anti-Slavery International).

Canada's Relation With the Issue

Although Canada is a developed nation, it is considered a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking. Victims from Asia tend to be trafficked to Western Canada while Eastern European and Latin American victims are trafficked to Toronto, Montreal, and Eastern Canada. For example, 100 girls are trafficked yearly in Toronto only for sexual exploitation and it is estimated that they supply 5 million dollars in profit (St-Marie).

Canada officially signed the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children on May 13th 2002 (UNODC). Due to the lack of clarity about the terms sexual exploitation and force provided in the protocol, the Canadian government created specific offences relating to trafficking in persons (Ratansi). In 2002 the Canadian government acted against human trafficking activities in Canada and the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* took effect. Section 118 of this law states that “No person shall knowingly organize the coming into Canada of one or more persons by means of abduction, fraud, deception or use or threat of force or coercion” (Raaflaub). Penalties as long as life sentences and fines up to a million dollars can be the results of failing to comply with the Canadian law (Growing).

Very few people in Canada are aware that human trafficking is an issue that affects everyone in the country. They know of illegal immigration which is often of part of the issue, but they are not aware that the victims (mostly women) are sold, and 92% of the time often become sexually exploited and forced to work as prostitutes (Ratansi).

There is a specific demographic of people that are often targeted by traffickers: native women. In the past, Aboriginal people were bought and sold for chattel slavery in Canada until the abolition of the practice within the British Empire in 1834. Since then, aboriginal women have been stereotyped as filthy and worthy of sexual exploitation by the some Canadians. It is without surprise that most of the Canadians at risk of being trafficked internally are aboriginal women (Sikka). Also, as previously mentioned in this report, poverty is one of the many factors that encourage the growth of trafficking. 40% of aboriginal women in Canada live in poverty, a factor that increases their vulnerability to be trafficked. Usually aboriginal victims will start being exploited in Vancouver and as

the years go by, slowly move towards the eastern part of the nation (Ratansi). The traffickers will also create an addiction to drugs in the victim's life and therefore making them dependent on the traffickers to support their habit and it becomes almost impossible for them to break free (Sikka).

On a more external look of the issue in Canada, it is estimated by the RCMP that approximately 800 foreign trafficking victims are brought into Canada each year. In 2009 provincial governments convicted five offenders who obtained sentences ranging from two to eight years' imprisonment. An additional 12 anti-trafficking prosecutions were pending before provincial courts as of late April 2009, involving 15 accused offenders (2009 TIP report). The government was recognized as a tier 1 country by the U.S TIP (Trafficking in Persons) report for its accomplishment (St-Marie).

Possible Solutions

Solution A): Not do anything at all

The first solution there is to the issue is to not do anything at all to eradicate it from our societies. This solution has to be analyzed since it is what too many countries have chosen and is causing human trafficking to spread furthermore. There are two different paths that this solution can take the issue to.

The first path is the spreading of human trafficking. By not acting, governments are ensuring that human trafficking will always be part of our world and that groups of people will never be free. This path might lead the traffickers to keep thinking that what they are doing is legal and will never be punished for their actions. This will cause the

problem to grow to a point where nothing will be able to eradicate it and will simply be part of everyone's everyday life.

The second path is the complete disappearance of human trafficking. It is less likely that this is the path down which the issue will go but is the world ready to jeopardize the future due to laziness?

Solution B): Raising awareness

Raising awareness is what NGO's and IGO's around the world are trying to accomplish at this time. They have decided that doing nothing was not an option. Since human trafficking is a modern term that replaced slavery, many people are not familiar with it. Entire societies are not aware that human trafficking is a global issue although it is present in almost every country in the world. To eradicate such an important problem from the world, individuals need to come together and act against this injustice that the victims are living.

Human trafficking cannot be fought against if some people are kept in the dark. Everyone should know about it. Activists are dedicating their lives to inform those people. They organize campaigns to pass the word around and increase the size of their networks of people fighting for freedom. By raising awareness, people will learn what the issue involves and that will be enough to mobilize future activists and fighters. Kevin Bales is a walking example of how raising awareness can change someone for the best and lead them to become an important character in the fight against the issue.

Raising awareness is a straightforward and very effective solution to the commodification of people. Unlike the other answers for the issue, this one does not involve other important factors and therefore can do no harm. By raising awareness, things can only get better.

Solution C): Fighting corruption

Political corruption usually takes place in areas where a large percentage of the population is poor and uneducated (Singh). With this observation in mind, it would not be wrong to say that for corruption to end, the local people need to be educated and need to learn about what their government is doing as well as the reason why it is not right.

With the external help from international governments, populations living under corrupted governmental systems will be able to fight for better governments. The laws that should be enforced in order to for vulnerable people to be protected will be implemented. Also, by having more educated people, the chances to have a better government elected are very high.

Solution D): International laws

To fight a global issue as widespread as human trafficking, governments cannot act separately and create their own rules. This solution is a long-term goal that governments should consider because by creating one set of rules that every country can agree on, the fight against human trafficking will be easier. It will be more intimidating for the traffickers to break international rules with more severe sentences. This one act will have

to make sure that everything from the prosecution of the traffickers to the after care of the victims, foreign or not, is covered.

Some people could argue that this solution is not a solution because making 196 countries come to consensus is impossible to do, but if enough pressure is put on the governments, governments that know that trafficking in human beings is simply *wrong*, it can happen. Most of them already agree on the fact that trafficking is a crime that has to be abolished.

Solution E): Micro-Financing

Poverty is possibly the biggest factor that causes international trafficking in human beings. It would be logical to go to the root of the issue and try to solve it from there.

Micro-financing is, by definition, the practice of making loans to extremely poor persons to help them rise from poverty through entrepreneurship (Microfinance). By lending money to impoverished groups of people for them to create businesses, many jobs in developing countries will be created. Those people that were vulnerable to being trafficked before because of lack of money will be able to have jobs and be rewarded for their work while being free.

Micro- financing is a way to promote sustainable development in developing countries and transform areas at risk of human trafficking into more secure zones.

Solution F): Fair Trade Products (as a solution for slavery only)

Many big corporations like Nestlé and Wal-mart are **presumed** to use forced labour workers that are most likely trafficked to produce the consumerism goods they sell. This solution can be put into practice by the general public. By committing ourselves to buy fair trade sealed products (fair trade products defined as a product that is traffic-free) only, we are contributing to the end of human trafficking and slavery around the world.

Conclusion

Let's contemplate the following. Every 30 seconds a child is sold in the world. Also at this time, there are more slaves around the world than there was in the past when slavery was the subject of many debates and protests because people were aware it was an issue (Skinner). Every country in the world is currently affected by the commodification of human beings without any exceptions. No countries are shielded

from this international crime, even if there is only one victim trafficked or sold each year, it is one too many. Like every other human being on earth, the victims of issues related to the commodification of people deserve the right to be free and live a serene life.

Expert, Kevin Bales, estimates that slavery can be stopped within 30 years at a cost of less than \$20 billion, a much cheaper price tag than most other social problems (Plan). To solve a global issue as important as human trafficking, the best way to start is to trace the problem back to its roots and attempt to fix it from there. By combining all the previous solutions together (excluding solution A), the commodification of humans will be part history. Some of the preceding options are *ideal solutions*, meaning that they should be taken into consideration but are most likely not going to be put into action due to the numerous factors involved (Bales et al. 43).

The future of the commodification of human beings is in the younger generations' hands. Hopefully as time goes on, they will become more aware of the commodification of human beings and will share that awareness with others. It will be a tough fight, but by opening the public's eyes to the atrocities that is happening in the world, they can be triumphant.

Appendices

Appendix I

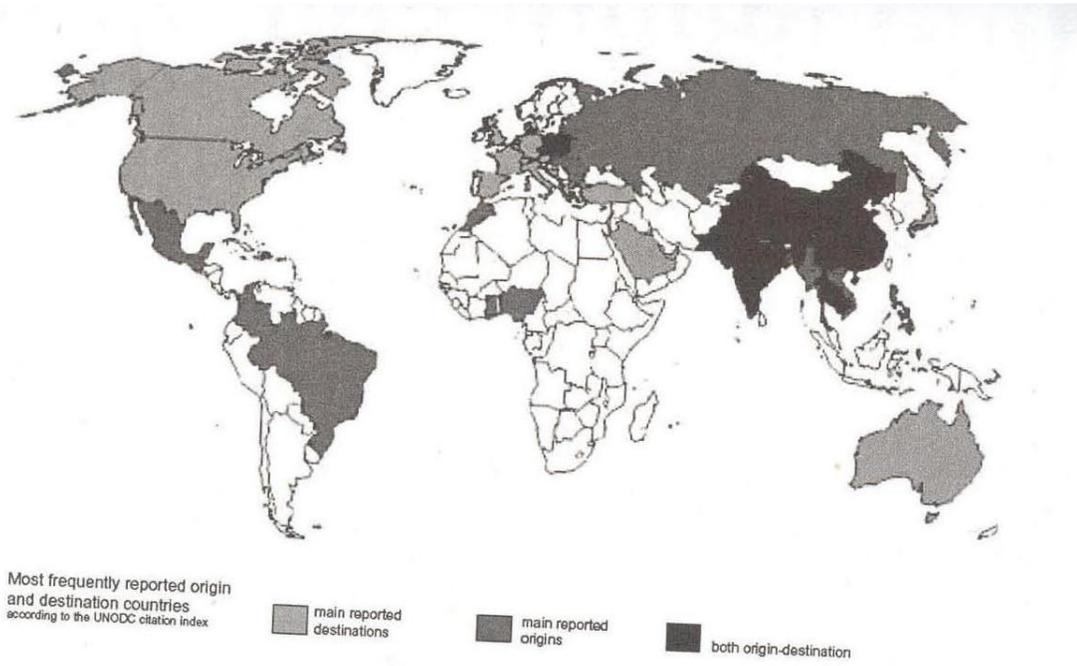


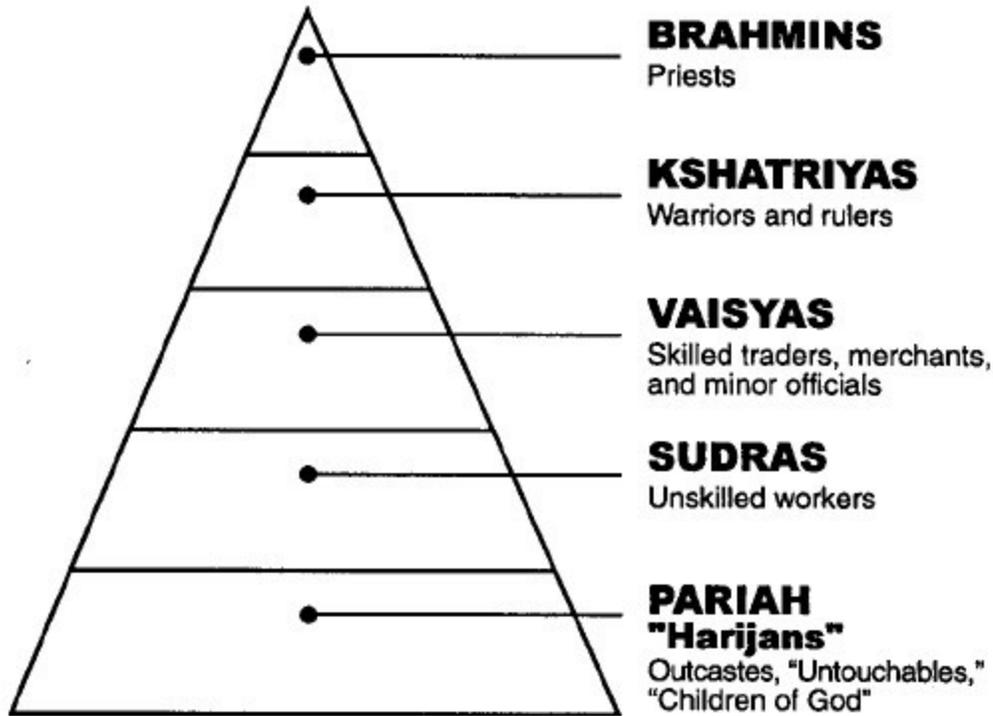
Figure 4 Reported human trafficking: main origin, destination, and transit countries

Appendix II

Table 2 Differences between "old" and "new" slavery

Old slavery	New slavery
Slavery not globalized	Slavery globalized
Legal ownership asserted	Illegal and legal ownership avoided
Long-term relationship	Short-term relationship
Racial differences important	Racial differences less important
High purchase cost	Very low purchase cost
Low profits	Very high profits
Shortage of potential slaves	Surplus of potential slaves
Slaves maintained	Slaves disposable

Appendix III



IGO's contact information

-Anti-Slavery International

URL : <http://www.antislavery.org/english/>
Thomas Clarkson House, The Stableyard
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London SW9 9TL
United Kingdom
Phone : (011-44-20) 7501 8920



E-mail : Info@antislavery.org

-Organs Watch

C/o Dept. Of Antropology
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USA
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-STOP THE TRAFFIK
STOP THE TRAFFIK International Office
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SE1 7HS
U.K.
Tel: +44 (0)207 921 4258
E-mail: info@stopthetraffik.org

-Free the Slaves (FTS)
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